

Faculty Senate Grants Academic Amnesty



OVERWHELMING URI TURNOUT, estimated at 5,000, engulfs the Faculty Senate as it decides the academic future of students on strike.

By Anne Foster

Over 5,000 URI students crowded the quadrangle yesterday to witness an unprecedented faculty senate meeting at which the senate voted to grant academic amnesty to all URI students for the remainder of the semester.

The four options made for the benefit of student strikers (explained in detail below) were presented by Vice President for Academic Affairs James E. Archer. The proposal was said to have the backing of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Student Senate President Tony Robinson.

Speaking in favor of the options which would insure the right to individual choice were Steve Erickson, representative of S.O.S. (Students Opposed to Strike); Mike Morgan, representative of the Strike Steering Committee; faculty Senator Stephen D. Schwartz; and Strike Steering Committee Chairman Arthur B. Stein.

President Baum has indicated approval of the four student options.

It was announced that pre-registration will be extended to May 15.

Admitted cheers and wild applause, Faculty Senator Agnes Doody moved to collect \$1,128 to buy a full page ad in the Sunday Providence Journal saying "President Nixon—We believe in our students. They are not bums." Hats were

passed amongst the crowd, and a total of \$1,141 was collected. The Senate approved donation of the extra money collected to the fund to replace two broken windows at the Bookstore.

Cheered on by the massive student audience, the Senate approved the following resolutions: 1) endorsement and commendation of President Baum for his splendid handling of the entire strike situation, 2) formal expression of opposition to the federal government's move into Cambodia, 3) condemnation of the massacre at Kent State University, 4) condemnation of the repression of criticism and dissent carried on at the highest level of the federal government, 5) condemnation of all acts of oppression, 6) formal charge that the Senate and House of Representatives refuse to appropriate any more funds for continuance of the war and 7) formal commendation of the student strike organizers.

Speaking in favor of the student option motion, Senator Stein warned the crowd that "We have serious and hard work to do here. To be on strike is not to be on vacation." Tony Robinson added "We have only started," and encouraged students to continue supporting the strike and to support the institution of a campus unicameral government.

Four Option Analysis

By Diane DeQuinzio

In the bill passed by the Faculty Senate concerning classes and final examinations, four options were proposed which would be effective for this semester only. The bill reads as follows:

It is moved that all regulations pertaining to the completion of course requirements and the assigning of grades contained in the University Manual be suspended for the Spring, 1970, semester and that all University students be given the following options:

- 1) To be graded on pass-fail basis on all work completed and submitted prior to May 4.
- 2) To be graded on the basis of all work completed and submitted prior to May 4.
- 3) To take a final examination and be graded on all work including the final examination.
- 4) To receive a grade of "Incomplete" in the course and fulfill requirements for final grade prior to beginning of Spring, 1971 semester.

It is recommended that each college establish an "ombudsman" office consisting of one or more faculty members to consider informally any conflicts that might arise between students and faculty members over grades given for the semester. These "ombudsmen" shall try to alleviate problems by discussion among the parties involved. Should the problem not be alleviated at the college level an appeal may be entered at the University level to an "academic appeals board" consisting of two faculty members appointed by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate, the President of the Student

Senate and one Administrator appointed by the President. This Appeal Board shall set up its own procedures for hearing cases and it may decide what action will be taken relative to the situation. These procedures are only to be in effect for the second semester of the 1969-70 academic year.

In an interview with Dean of Arts & Sciences Jerome Pollack, and Vice-President for Academic Affairs, James Archer, following the Faculty Senate meeting, Dean Pollack stressed the fact that every student will have the choice of one of the four options for each of his classes; in other words, no class consensus whatsoever is necessary to choose one of the options. The student must make out a special form available in the registrar's office, dean's office and at information desk in the Memorial Union in order to choose an option.

The first option specifies the choice of a pass-fail grade in any class (including major and minor requirements) with the mark depending upon work up to Monday, May 4. The pass-fail system will be extended to freshmen for these special circumstances.

The second option allows the student to take the grade which he has in a course up to Monday, May 4, including all work completed and submitted before this date.

The third option is to complete a course and take the final examination as has been done at the end of previous semesters.

The option to take an "incomplete" in any course has been changed because, where only professors had final judgment on whether or not a

student could take an incomplete, now the student himself will be able to make this choice. Also, the student will have until the end of next semester to complete the course, instead of at midsemester, as it had been done previously.

Both Dean Pollack and Dr. Archer emphasized the fact that an incomplete grade should be taken only after the student's careful consideration. They said that it was very important for the student to realize that any incomplete courses would have to be given a final grade by the end of next semester. This work would, consequently, be added to the five or so courses each student will be taking next semester.

Another problem to be decided before taking an incomplete is the fact that the professor of a certain course may not be teaching at URI next year, because of leaves, sabbaticals, etc. A senior would not graduate with an incomplete, and would be ill-advised to take such a mark this semester, unless he is planning to go on to graduate school. If he feels it is important for him to have a good grade in a particular subject, but he is not prepared to take a final exam right now because of the strike, then an incomplete might be appropriate. Consultation with an advisor is strongly suggested before taking this action.

In order to allow both the instructor and the registrar to be notified of the student's choices well in advance of dates for final exams, the dean's offices and administration people are asking students to pick up as soon as possible a form for each class for which they must

choose one of the options, sign the form, and deliver it to the respective instructor.

For example, a student with five courses wishes to take a final exam in one course, the pass/fail option in two courses, and his grades as of May 4 in the remaining two courses. He would obtain five of the special forms, indicate his choice for each course on the individual form and take these to the instructors involved who would either schedule a final exam or not. The instructors will forward all forms to the registrar's office.

Vice-President Archer stated that if a student does not complete these forms, it will mean that the student has rejected all the options, and he will be placed in option 3—and must take the final exam or will more than likely fail the course.

Another point made by Dr. Archer was that seniors with QP averages below 1.95 should consider option choices very carefully, since a wrong choice

Editorial

Students have been given four options concerning their final marks for this semester. Faculty Senate, by granting these options, has displayed its belief and trust in the students at URI. The students must now prove that they are worthy of this trust.

The strike has not ended. It must not end. A moral commitment must not be deterred because one does not have to take an exam.

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(for example, taking too many pass/fail courses) might stop a student from graduating this semester.

The purpose of establishing an informal "ombudsman" committee in each college is to handle any claims by students who feel an instructor has given them an unfair grade. If the student is still unsatisfied, he may go to the newly-formed "Academic Appeals Board."

The proposal for the options was drafted by all the academic deans at a meeting held from 10 a.m. to noon yesterday. The final product was a composite of the ideas proposed by separate meetings of the Strike Steering Committee and an executive session of the Faculty Senate. The three groups jointly sponsored the final draft which was finished only minutes before the Faculty Senate meeting began.

Any questions on the options may be directed to the deans' offices, the registrar, or Dr. Archer.